- detecting the migration of the analytes initially contained in the sample.

--60. (new) The use of a medium according to Claim 32 in an automated electrophoresis apparatus.

--61. (new) The use of a medium according to Claim 32 in a microfluidic system.

--62. (new) A capillary electrophoresis device comprising, as separation medium, a medium according to Claim 32.

Jean-Louis VIOVY et al.

R E M A R K S

The above changes in the claims merely place this national phase application in the same condition as it was during the international phase. Following entry of this amendment, the claims now in the case are claims 32-62.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By Benoît Castel

Benoît Castel
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 35, 041
Customer No. 00466
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone: 703/521-2297

June 28, 2001

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A medium comprises an electrolyte wherein is dissolved at least an assembly of block copolymers characterised in that the block copolymers: are present in the electrolyte at a concentration level to provide the medium with the property of reversibly passing from a state of viscosity V1, obtained at a temperature T1, to a viscosity state V2 greater by at least 100% than V1, obtained at a temperature T2, and comprise in their structure at least: two non-contiguous polymeric segments having in the electrolyte a lower critical solubility temperature (LCST) and having an average number of atoms along their skeleton more than 50; and a polymeric segment soluble in the electrolyte at temperatures T1 and T2. The invention also concerns the use of the medium for separating analytes.